Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL NOUAKCHOTT 3045

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MOPS, MR, SS

SUBJECT: GIRM-POLISARIO ENCOUNTERS

1. POLISARIO CONTINUES TO PUT PRESSURE ON GIRM FORCES IN NORTHERN MAURITANIA AND MAURITANIAN PORTION OF WESTERN SAHARA. SPANISH DIPLOMAT TOLD EMB. OFF. DECEMBER 11 THAT POLISARIO FORCES ATTACKED GIRM UNITS ON DECEMBER 7 SOME 30 MILES EAST OF AARGUB, WHICH IS LOCATED IN WESTERN SAHARA ACROSS FROM DAKHLA. DURING THIS IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENT SOME 12 TO 15 MAURITANIAN TROOPS WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED WHILE POLISARIO CASUALTIES WERE MINIMAL.

2. SPANIARD SAID GIRM FORCES EVENED SCORE TWO DAYS LATER WHEN THEY INTERCEPTED STRONG POLISARIO UNIT IN VICINITY OF OUADANE (20-56N 11-37W) IN NORTH CENTERAL MAURIOANIA. ON THIS OCCASION, SOME 15 POLISARIO TROOPS WERE RPEORTEDLY KILLED WHILE GIRM LOSSES WERE LIGHT. ACCORDING TO WELL INFORMED MAURITANIAN, FIGHTING IN AREA AROUND OUADANE CONTINUED THROUGH DECEMBER 11. EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEE AT NOUAKCHOTT AIRPORT TOLD US OF ARRIVAL THERE DURING PAST SWEERAL DAYS OF POLISARIO PRISONERS, WHO MAY HAVE BEEN CAPTURED DURING FIGHTING NEAR OUADANE.

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HANDYSIDE

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